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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Schweich Releases Audit of Renaissance Charter School Closure

JEFFERSON CITY (Nov. 18, 2014) – State Auditor Tom Schweich released the audit of the Renaissance Academy for Math and Sciences of Missouri, Inc. Charter School closure, located in Kansas City, today.

In the areas audited, the overall performance of this entity was **Poor**.

The board paid its law firm over \$194,000 to perform closure and administrative duties without soliciting proposals or determining if less expensive options were available, including a \$46,930 "recovery bonus" for filing financial reports with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE); at least \$29,300 for filing, faxing, and handling inquiries about student records; and at least \$21,500 for handling issues related to capital asset inventory and distribution. The board also paid this firm \$101,000 for legal services between June 2012 and November 2013.

Some disbursements since the school closure were unreasonable and unnecessary for the school closure process. The board spent \$4,355 on a meeting and holiday party, including time spent by a law firm partner to plan the party and time spent by law firm staff to open internal emails inviting staff to the party.

The board spent \$12,644 for two members of the board and three representatives of the board's law firm to attend the 2012 annual Missouri Charter Public School Association conference where they presented a training session on charter school closures.

To read the full report, visit: <http://www.auditor.mo.gov/AuditReports/AudRpt2.aspx?id=57>

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